

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed June 12, 2008 in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 8-10 and 12-20 are amended. Claims 8-10 and 17-19 have been amended for improved readability. The amendments to claims 1 and 2 find clear support in the original application at least at paragraph [0045]. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 12-20 because “a computer-readable medium” should be changed to “a computer-readable storage medium”. Claims 2 and 12-20 have been amended to recite “a computer-readable storage medium”. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 2 and 12-20 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 4-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. The Examiner asserts that storing the time when the request was sent and storing the time when the response was received are critical and essential. Applicants do not concur with the basis for the rejection. Nonetheless, in order to advance prosecution of the application, independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite “storing a transmittal time, according to a clock of the first computing device, when the protected reference time request was transmitted to the higher level computing device” and “storing a receipt time, according to the clock of the first computing device, when the response from the higher level computing device was received at the first computing device”. Accordingly, amended claims 1 and 2 correspond to the specification, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-11 depend from claim 1, and claims 12-20 depend from claim 2. These claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claims 1 and 2.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 2 and 4-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Based on the foregoing, claims 1, 2 and 4-20 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Date: August 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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